

Remarks

Claims 25, 27, 28, 32, 36, 45, and 47-51 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 50 and 51 have been amended, claims 25, 27, 28, 32, 36, and 48-49 have been cancelled, and new claims 52 and 53 have been added. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of the applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position. Accordingly, claims 45, 47, and 50-53 are currently before the Examiner for consideration.

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 45 and 47 have been allowed in the subject application.

Claims 25, 27, 28, 32, 36, and 48-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as non-enabled by the subject specification. The applicants respectfully submit that the claims are fully enabled by the subject specification. However, by this Amendment, claims 25, 27, 28, 32, 36, 48, and 49 have been cancelled. Claims 50 and 51 have been amended to lend further clarity to the claimed subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 50 and 51 have been amended such that they are in independent form. Furthermore, claims 50 and 51 have been amended to recite methods for raising antibodies in a neonate by administering an isolated Group B *Streptococcal* non-phosphorylating NADP-dependent glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase to the mother prior to, or during, pregnancy with the neonate. Thus, claims 50 and 51 differ from allowed claim 47 in reciting that antibodies are raised in a neonate by passage from the mother. Specifically, claim 50 now recites a method for raising antibodies against Group B *Streptococcus* in a neonate, comprising administering an isolated Group B *Streptococcal* non-phosphorylating NADP-dependent glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase to a female subject prior to pregnancy with the neonate, wherein the non-phosphorylating NADP-dependent glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase is administered in an amount effective to produce the antibodies in the neonate. Claim 51 now recites a method for raising antibodies against Group B *Streptococcus* in a neonate, comprising administering an isolated Group

B *Streptococcal* non-phosphorylating NADP-dependent glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase to a female subject during pregnancy with the neonate, wherein the non-phosphorylating NADP-dependent glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase is administered in an amount effective to produce the antibodies in the neonate. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, at page 3, lines 3-5, of the specification, which states “this vaccine may be administered to females either prior to or during pregnancy to protect mother and neonate against infection by GBS.” Based on the specification and the Moore Declaration, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect that antibodies raised in the mother during, or prior to, pregnancy would pass to the unborn child. New claims 52 and 53, which depend from claims 50 and 51, respectively, recite that the non-phosphorylating NADP-dependent glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase comprises SEQ ID NO:12. Support for claims 52 and 53 can be found, for example, at 2, lines 11-15 and 27-30; page 3, lines 20-29; and page 10, lines 18-26, of the specification.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that, given the teaching of the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art could carry out the claimed methods without the need for undue experimentation. In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

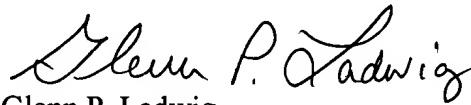
Claims 50 and 51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The applicants respectfully submit that the metes and bounds of the claimed subject matter are clear to one of ordinary skill in the art. However, as indicated above, the applicants have amended claims 50 and 51 such that they are in independent form. In addition, claims 50 and 51 have been amended to clarify that antibodies are raised in the neonate by administering an isolated Group B *Streptococcal* non-phosphorylating NADP-dependent glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase to the mother prior to pregnancy (claim 50) or during pregnancy (claim 51). In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn P. Ladwig

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 46,853

Phone No.: 352-375-8100

Fax No.: 352-372-5800

Address: Saliwanchik, Lloyd & Saliwanchik
A Professional Association
P.O. Box 142950
Gainesville, FL 32614-2950

GPL/mv